



# Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, April 22, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

## Cotton Pest Programs Report:

**Boll Weevil Eradication** - Cotton producers in 13 counties of the northern panhandle of Texas voted in favor of establishing an eradication zone. Nearly 93 percent of those voting supported eradication on the 25,000 acres of cotton grown in the new zone. Much of this acreage is new to cotton. The zone will be monitored with pheromone traps to confirm and maintain its weevil-free status.

Also in Texas, growers in the proposed St. Lawrence Boll Weevil Eradication Zone are voting to determine their involvement in the program. This four-county zone has about 157,000 acres of cotton, and in recent years its weevil population has caused costly migration and reinfestation into adjacent eradication zones. Ballots will be counted later this week.

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## Environmental Monitoring:

Spring brings a flurry of activity for the **Environmental Monitoring** Team working on the Boll Weevil Eradication Program. 2003 Environmental Monitoring Reports and 2004 Environmental Monitoring Plans were distributed to Program field staffs and APHIS personnel. Monitoring is conducted in the eight states with active eradication programs. Our annual consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife regional offices is underway, where they approve or make suggestions on our protection measures for federally protected species. Environmental monitoring training was conducted earlier this year for cooperator personnel in north Texas. Later in April, environmental monitoring training will be conducted for cooperator personnel in Arkansas, focusing on the field staffs that will be working in the northeast Arkansas counties that started Program treatments this past year.

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## Emerald Ash Borer Report:

1. A Emerald Ash Borer Science Advisory Panel (SAP) meeting was held in Brighton, Michigan during the week of April 12, 2004. Scientists met with program managers initially and were given updates of the continuing program activities in response to the pest in Michigan, Ohio, Maryland, and Virginia. They reviewed the results of field and laboratory research from the previous season and discussed program future response to the insect in light of this data. The SAP members continue to support the concept of a Reduced Ash Zone to control the spread of EAB into non-infested areas, and the use of trap trees to assist with determining the leading edge of infestations.

2. A suspected discovery of an **Emerald Ash Borer** in northeastern Indiana, at a campground near Fremont, was confirmed by USDA entomologist James Zablotny. On Tuesday, April 20, 2004, four samples were submitted from a damaged ash tree located in Steuben County, approximately 40 miles north of Fort Wayne, Indiana. The samples consisted of a combination of *Podesia* sp. and *Agrilus planipennis*.

The infestation was discovered by a County Extension Coordinator who was examining ash trees in the Jelly Stone Campground, which is approximately 7 miles from the Pokagon State Park in Steuben County.

State Plant Regulatory Official Robert Waltz indicated that response teams consisting of DNR, extension, Natural Resources, and the State Dept. of Agriculture will scout ash trees visually, using a bucket truck to examine tree crowns, in order to delimit the infestation. Trap trees will eventually be put in place. Infested trees will be removed before June 1st.

This campground has been posted regarding the ban to remove any firewood. All campgrounds in Indiana will be posted regarding the ban on firewood from Michigan and Ohio. The owners of the site have been very cooperative thus far and have volunteered to assist with the firewood ban.

3. The Ohio Department of Agriculture completed imidacloprid treatments in the second quarter mile area



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at the Whitehouse site in Lucas County. These are the second season chemical applications for this area.

4. On April 16, 2004, the USDA Identifier determined that 4 larvae submitted from a residence in St. Helen, Michigan, were Emerald Ash Borer. This collection is the first for Roscommon County.

5. Removal of ash trees has begun in Saginaw County in the half-mile radius of known positives. Total removals will be approximately 112,000 trees.

**Source:** Deborah L. McPartlan